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Portland

287

10 Nov. 1877

Dear Mr. Garrison

Some one has kindly sent  
me a copy of the N.Y. Times. of Oct. 20  
containing your letter on the  
President's "Policy" - which I have  
read with great interest - as  
my views are entirely in harmony  
with those it shapes. I am  
quite out of patience at hearing  
the phrase - the "President's Policy".  
He has no right to have any policy -  
as separate and distinct from the  
long. well settled policy of the party  
which elected him - and which had  
a right to demand that he should  
be its representative in conducting  
the government of the Country.

But he was not warm in his  
place, before he ostentatiously  
shook the party off - and announced  
his intention to run the National  
machine without any of its help.  
A man of extraordinary ability  
and of great experience in public  
affairs - might with self presump-  
tion attempt to do this.

The protection of the blacks  
in the south, had become the  
most important part of the policy  
of the party - because most of the  
results of the rebellion and its  
suppression, had been accepted  
by southern men as a foregone

Conclusion - which there was  
no hope of avoiding - and no  
power of resisting. But it was  
not so with the status of the  
Southern blacks - for this might  
be changed in many ways, if  
the protection of the general  
government should be withdrawn.

This has now been done, and  
the rebels are given distinctly  
to understand that they may  
work their will upon that people.  
The result is already "profound  
peace" in the South, because there  
is no longer any party there, which  
dares resist the purposes of  
those who sought to destroy the  
nation. The result of

all this - I fear - will be the  
overthrow of the republican party -  
and the government will be handed  
over to the President's friends  
Wade Hampton - Gen. Johnson -  
H. A. Stevens - Zouaves - and the  
rest of that amiable & patriotic  
circle. I shall be very sad  
to find by the event, that I have  
entirely misjudged the tendency  
of meanness -

I am very truly yours  
Neal Dow